

JBSA LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

JUNE 19, 2020



JOSE TORRESGUERRA

Lt. Gen. Brad Webb (left), commander, Air Education and Training Command, passes the 502d Air Base Wing colors to Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller (center), the newest commander of the wing and Joint Base San Antonio, as outgoing commander Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman (right) looks on, during a modified change of command ceremony June 12 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

502d ABW, JBSA welcome new commander

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Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. confirmed to be 22nd Air Force Chief of Staff

By Charles Pope

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The U.S. Senate confirmed Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr., June 9 to be the 22nd Air Force Chief of Staff, clearing the way for the decorated pilot and experienced commander to become the first African-American in history to lead a branch of the U.S. military as its highest-ranking officer.

The vote was 98-0.

In advance of the historic vote on his confirmation, Brown testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee during a hearing May 7. During the hearing, Brown pledged to ensure Air Force readiness to support the National Defense Strategy, if confirmed.

"I am committed to the Air Force achieving irreversible momentum towards implementation of the National Defense Strategy and an integrated and more lethal joint force," Brown said.

Secretary of the Air Force Barbara Barrett congratulated Brown on his confirmation and highlighted the important role he will play leading the Air Force into the future and carrying on the strategic vision of the current Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. David L. Goldfein.

"I join leaders, Airmen, and Space Professionals from across the forces on congratulating Gen. Brown and his wife Sharene," Barrett said. "Leaders of their caliber will perpetuate the legacy of



COURTESY PHOTO

The U.S. Senate confirmed Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. to be the 22nd Air Force chief of staff.

excellence that Gen. Goldfein and Dawn Goldfein have epitomized over the last four years. Gen. Brown's unrivaled leadership, operational experience, and global perspective will prove crucial as we continue modernizing the Air Force to meet tomorrow's national security challenges and protect our nation."

Goldfein also congratulated Brown and cited his unparalleled qualifications to be the next Air Force Chief of Staff.

"There is no one I know who is better prepared to be Chief of Staff, no one who has the experience and the temperament to lead the Air Force," Goldfein said. "The Air Force and our nation will be in good hands under his leadership."

Chief of Space Operations and fellow service chief, Gen. Jay Raymond also congratulated Brown on his confirmation.

"Gen. Brown is an innovative leader who clearly understands the complex and evolving strategic environment we face today as a Department," Chief of Space Operations, Gen. Jay Raymond, said. "He clearly understands the importance of leading across all domains to compete, deter and win—especially in war-fighting domains like space. I am thrilled with Gen. Brown's confirmation. I couldn't ask for a better teammate."

Brown was commissioned in 1984 as a distinguished graduate of the ROTC program at Texas Tech University. He is a command pilot with more than 2,900 flying hours, including 130 combat hours.

Brown currently serves as the U.S. Pacific Air Forces commander and the air component commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. U.S. Pacific Air Forces and is responsible for Air Force activities spread over half the globe in a command that supports more than 46,000 Airmen serving principally in Japan, Korea, Hawaii, Alaska and Guam.

Brown will replace Goldfein Aug. 6 at a swearing-in ceremony.

Air Force IG directed to independently examine racial disparities in discipline, advancements

From Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

Department of the Air Force Secretary Barbara Barrett and service chiefs, Gen. David Goldfein and Gen. Jay Raymond, have directed the Department of the Air Force Inspector General to independently review the

service's record on military discipline and developmental opportunities for African American Airmen and Space Professionals.

The review will assess and capture existing racial disparities, assess Air Force-specific causal factors, like culture and policies, assimilate the analysis and

conclusions of previous racial disparity studies by external organizations and make concrete recommendations resulting in impactful and lasting change.

By law, IGs operate as independent entities. The full results of both reviews, good or bad, will be shared with Airmen, Department of

Defense senior leaders, Congress and the public.

The request formalizes a step Goldfein publicly raised for the first time on June 1 in an official note to commanders and other senior leaders. That official message was Goldfein's response to the death of

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JBSA LEGACY

Joint Base San Antonio
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Feedback Fridays

By Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller

502D AIR BASE WING AND
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO COMMANDER

Feedback Fridays is a weekly forum that aims to connect the 502d Air Base Wing with members of the Joint Base San Antonio community. Questions are collected during commander's calls, town hall meetings and throughout the week.

If you have a question or concern, please send an email to RandolphPublicAffairs@us.af.mil using the subject line "Feedback Fridays." Questions will be further researched and published as information becomes available.

Q. My question is considering how the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Commissary cleans their shopping carts.

I picked up a cart from the return cart area, thinking that there are sanitation wipes inside, which there normally are. I asked the ID checker where the wipes were, she said that they didn't have any, but carts are "cleaned periodically."

When I asked to speak with a supervisor, I was directed to an office towards the center of the cashier area. When I knocked and asked for a supervisor, I was told she wasn't in. When I asked when she would be, I was told it would be shortly. It was 10:30 a.m.

At 1 p.m., another worker asked if I would like to speak with a manager. The assistant manager came in and had nothing but excuses, instead of answers about the sanitation of carts and about the employee being evasive about the supervisor's time to be at work.

She mentioned that workers periodically sanitize the carts. I explained that I saw people return carts and older patrons use them without being cleaned. They need to have a dedicated staff member monitoring their cleaning service on carts, as well as having signs for clean or unsafe carts. Thank you. A. Thank you for your question. The commissary appreciates customer feedback and it helps improve their processes. Customer service and safety is a top priority.

The store will now have the carts the baggers bring to the corral sanitized prior to re-use or they will put them in

the non-sanitized cart location. There are signs posted outside that state which are sanitized carts and non-sanitized carts.

The commissary will put signs up stating the corrals in the parking lot are not sanitized.

For more information or further concerns, you can reach out to the patron awareness representatives directly at either Jennifer.stevens@deca.mil or Yolanda.bowden@deca.mil and they will be able to provide direct assistance.

Q. When are Basic Military Training graduations going to resume?

The patriotism, love, and pride that is exhibited each week is inspiring. The families who come on base are so positively impacted by BMT graduations.

BMT graduations also provide a huge economic impact on the base (clubs, AAFES, food courts, etc.), the community, and the city of San Antonio. Thank you!

A. We know how significant BMT graduation is and understand you would like to be there in person to congratulate your Airman.

The health and safety of trainees and staff are at the forefront of our decision-making, and at this time, BMT graduation remains closed to guests. Leadership is monitoring the situation in coordination with medical experts to determine when guest attendance at graduation events will resume.

For the safety of Airmen and staff, newly graduated Airmen are transitioning directly to technical training and are not allowed visitors at this time.

Once Airmen arrive at technical training, their new squadrons will provide them an update on the ability to travel off base or have visitors come to visit based on the direction of the Installation commander and DOD guidance.

This determination is based on the priority of keeping them safe and the completion of their technical training requirements. For JBSA updates, visit <https://www.jbsa.mil/coronavirus/>.

BMT graduation is live-streamed on the USAF Basic Military Training Facebook page @USAFBMT and will be archived for later viewing on the 37th Training Wing YouTube Channel



at "Gateway Wing." Photos from each week's graduation ceremony will also be uploaded as an album to the Gateway Wing Flickr page at www.flickr.com/photos/gatewaywing.

As guidance changes, updates will be shared on the USAF Basic Military Training Facebook page @USAFBMT.

Q. As local, state, and federal regulations are being lifted in a phased approach, it has been stated that the health and safety of JBSA personnel will remain a top priority, while a deliberate, phased approach is executed on the post.

What does the phased approach entail? What will occur in each phase and what criterion is required to meet that phase? Is there any timeline on when "official business only" status will be lifted and DOD ID holders will be allowed back on base?

A. Health Protection Condition, or HPCON, Bravo indicates a moderate disease threat and risk of exposure to personnel, and the Public Health Emergency remains in effect at JBSA. Also, JBSA has discontinued "official business only" for base access.

A phased reopening entails the base opening and returning services to normal in stages. The situation is constantly evolving and leadership continues to monitor the situation to decide on the best phases as well as health practices based on state, city and guidelines to lower the risk and spread of COVID-19.

For the latest information, please continue to monitor <https://www.jbsa.mil/Information/CDC-Novet>

-Coronavirus-Response-Support/ and follow us on Joint Base San Antonio Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/JointBaseSanAntonio/>.

Q. When will the gyms open for retirees?

A. Thank you for your feedback. To protect the health and safety of our patrons and employees, we took a phased approach to re-opening our fitness centers.

As of June 9, JBSA Fitness Centers are open to DOD civilians, retirees, and eligible dependents from 9-11 a.m. (JBSA-Lackland, JBSA-Randolph and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston), 1-3 p.m. (JBSA-Lackland, JBSA-Randolph and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston), and 7 p.m. to close only (JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston).

With this phased re-opening, we've established some mandatory protective measures for all patrons and employees (listed below).

As we continue to closely monitor the state of the city and other installations throughout the DOD, we will provide updates and continue our phased re-openings to follow federal and state guidelines.

- ▶ 100 percent ID check is mandatory when not in uniform.
- ▶ 100percent health screening for all personnel prior to entering the facility
- ▶ Masks/cloth coverings must be work when entering/exiting the facility and in all areas when 6 feet of social distancing cannot be maintained.
- ▶ Patrons must wipe down equipment prior and after use.
- ▶ Patrons must limit their total workout time to 60 minutes maximum.

AF cancels 2020 Marathon, offers virtual option

From Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

In an effort to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and prioritize the health and safety of participants, Air Force officials have cancelled in-person running of the 2020 Air Force Marathon.

"The entire team and our mission and community partners have worked tirelessly for two months to find a way forward to produce the 24th annual event but have had to make the difficult decision to cancel the traditional in-person event," said Gen. Arnold W. Bunch Jr., commander of Air Force Materiel Command. "We know this is a challenging time for everyone, and the cancellation will be disappointing news to many."

Numerous scenarios were explored to produce an event that was safe for all and met the high event standards. All scenarios led the marathon team to conclude the event would be unable to proceed in a manner that participants have come to expect.

"We simply cannot execute the marathon in a manner where the safety and security of our runners, volunteers, staff, partners and spectators is satisfactorily achieved," explained Brandon Hough, Air Force Marathon director. "However, our team has worked hard to offer numerous options to registered participants to be as accommodating as possible."



WESLEY FARNSWORTH

Runners participate in the 2019 Air Force Marathon at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept. 21, 2019.

For those participants who are registered, the Air Force Marathon team has developed three options to choose from that are listed below. Additionally, for those who have yet to register, there is still time to sign up to participate in the virtual events.

VIRTUAL RACE: Complete the Air Force Marathon, half marathon, 10K, 5K, Tailwind Trot or Fly! Fight! Win!

Challenge Series race virtually on any day in September and receive your 2020 bib(s), medal(s) and race shirt(s). With this option, participants will also receive a 20 percent discount to any 2021 Air Force Marathon race.

GIFT AN AIRMAN: Registration may be gifted to a military member planning to participate in the 2021 Air Force Marathon or half marathon. By

selecting this option, participants will receive a 20 percent discount to any 2021 Air Force Marathon race.

DEFERRAL: Free deferral (\$15 deferral fee waived) to Air Force Marathon race weekends scheduled for 2021, 2022, or 2023.

"Although I am disappointed we won't have the in-person race, I planned to run the half marathon. I'm still looking forward to joining Airmen and participants from around the world running the virtual race this September," Bunch said.

Participants are asked to make their selection by June 28 in order for the marathon team to stay on schedule with ordering items and planning the virtual race experience. If an option is not selected before the deadline, registrants will automatically be entered into the virtual race. All STARS participants will be honored and maintained regardless of which option is selected.

Participants who registered directly with the Air Force Marathon will be contacted via email with the options and necessary steps to take. Participants who registered through a charity partner are asked to reach out directly to that organization for the options available to them. Participants seeking a refund should contact the Air Force Marathon office directly.

For the latest updates from the Air Force Marathon, visit usafmarathon.com.

AIR FORCE IG

From page 2

George Floyd in Minneapolis and the public protests about racial injustice.

"We are not immune to the spectrum of racial prejudice, systemic discrimination and unconscious bias," Goldfein wrote in his message to commanders. "We see this in the apparent inequity in our application of military justice. We will not shy away from this; as leaders and as Airmen, we will own our part, and confront it head-on."

In an open letter signed by Barrett and the two service chiefs, the leadership team

wrote, "We are listening, and we are taking action. We have directed the Department of the Air Force Inspector General to conduct an independent review".

As part of the review, the IG will widely reach out to Airmen and Space Professionals via interviews, group discussions, targeted and anonymous surveys. In addition, to better scope this review, the IG has formed a Senior Leader Advisory Group composed of 10 African American general officers, 10 African American chiefs and four African American senior executive service Airmen. In addition, a number of Airmen from all major commands will be

"We are not immune to the spectrum of racial prejudice, systemic discrimination and unconscious bias. We see this in the apparent inequity in our application of military justice. We will not shy away from this; as leaders and as Airmen, we will own our part, and confront it head-on."

Gen. David Goldfein, Air Force Chief of Staff

selected to join the IG review team. While other disparities also need to be reviewed, this phase will focus on African American racial disparities.

"We want to make sure our

Air and Space Professionals are able to share their experiences and concerns, and we want to empower them to be a part of the solution. Their voices will be heard and captured for the

record. We have a tremendous opportunity here, and we will not waste it," said Lt. Gen. Sami Said, the Air Force Inspector General.

Anonymous surveys will be made available on www.af.mil by mid-June so anyone who wants to provide feedback will be able to do so. Directions for how to submit the feedback will be included on the survey form. The surveys will include specific questions but also accommodate any desired comments.

Finally, the surveys will also include an email address for Airmen and Space Professionals to personally communicate with the IG team conducting the review.



JOSE TORRESGUERRA

Lt. Gen. Brad Webb (left), commander, Air Education and Training Command, passes the 502d Air Base Wing colors to Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller (center), the newest commander of the wing and Joint Base San Antonio, as outgoing commander Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman (right) looks on, during a modified change of command ceremony June 12 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

JBSA, 502d ABW holds change of command

By Lemitchel King

502D AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joint Base San Antonio and the 502d Air Base Wing welcomed Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller as the new commander and bid farewell to Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman during a change of command ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston June 12.

Miller comes from Headquarters U.S. Air Force where she served as the Director of Manpower, Organization and Resources.

"I look forward to leading the best joint base in the Department of Defense as we continue to face every challenge head on ... you are a world-class team," Miller said. "I am excited for the future and learning from my 502d ABW team

"I look forward to leading the best joint base in the Department of Defense as we continue to face every challenge head on ... you are a world-class team. I am excited for the future and learning from my 502d ABW team and JBSA mission partners."

Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller
502d Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander

and JBSA mission partners."

Miller is a career personnel professional and has held several command and staff positions at the base, major command, Air Staff and Joint levels. She has direct experience with the joint basing structure having commanded the 633rd Air Base Wing,

which runs day-to-day operations at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, which consists of Langley Air Force Base in Hampton and Fort Eustis in Newport News, Virginia.

"This is a unique time to lead given the challenges of COVID-19, but it's providing an opportunity to change the

way we train, fight and win," Miller said.

Brig. Gen. Lenderman served as the JBSA and 502d ABW commander for two years and will become the Director of Plans, Programs and Requirements at Headquarters Air Education and Training Command at JBSA-Randolph.

"I thank Brig. Gen. Lenderman for leaving us with a great blueprint and it is my honor to carry on your legacy," Miller said. "I'm following in great footsteps."

Social distancing and public health guidelines where incorporated into the ceremony held at MacArthur Parade Field on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, as well as the event was broadcasted on the installation's social media pages at <https://www.facebook.com/502ABWCommander/videos/3152174771537663/>.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

Local Navy technicians gain practical experience from COVID-19 maintenance backlog

By Randy Martin

NAVAL MEDICAL RESEARCH UNIT-SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Naval Medical Research Unit-San Antonio, or NAMRU-SA, is giving some Navy graduates of the Medical Education and Training Campus Biomedical Equipment Technician, or BMET, program practical experience that attacks one of COVID-19's side effects, a maintenance backlog. The Sailors are currently assigned to the Navy Medicine Training Support Center, or NMTSC, at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

"Because of the COVID-19 closure, we got behind on our preventive maintenance inspections," said Chief Petty Officer David Snow, NAMRU-SA's senior enlisted leader and a Navy BMET.

There are more than 1,300 pieces of medical and dental research equipment in NAMRU-SA's worksites at the Tri-Service Research Laboratory and the Battlefield Health Trauma Building. Both research facilities are located at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

Each tool requires service, inspection, or calibration. About 250 items were overdue for periodic maintenance on the 60th day of the mandatory social distancing campaign, which emptied labs and left equipment secure, but unattended.

Snow knew that if the backlog got worse it might jeopardize battlefield health research.

He knew about a recent memorandum of understanding between NAMRU-SA and Navy

Medicine Training Support Center, or NMTSC, which allows for mutual assistance whenever possible. He got support from the executive officers in both commands and eight recent BMET graduates reported for work at NAMRU-SA May 18.

Dozens of more Sailors are completing BMET training at the school and may wait to report to their duty stations worldwide because of the Department of Defense's movement restrictions. The initiative gives new technicians experience and mentoring by experts in the BMET career field.

"It's a daunting task for three individuals," Snow said. He and two defense contractors, all former Navy instructors at the BMET School, take care of NAMRU-SA's biomedical equipment. "One of the three of us are there supervising and doing quality control and making sure that everything was done to the manufacturer's specifications," Snow added.

The new BMET graduates work with NAMRU-SA for three 8-hour days each week. The team is able to complete a greater number of work orders in a single day and that is reducing the backlog.

The new graduates document their work in the Defense Medical Logistics Standard Support. Their effort is reviewed for accuracy. It's a confidence-builder and exactly what the BMETs will be doing when they get to their shops.

"I was a little bit nervous about leaving here because I have never been a BMET



RANDY MARTIN

In the Battlefield Health Trauma Building at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Petty Officer 3rd Class Benjamin Walker (left), a recent graduate of the Medical Education and Training Campus' Biomedical Equipment Technician School, listens while Jeffrey Ozmen, maintenance manager for Naval Medical Research Unit-San Antonio, explains inspection procedures May 20.

before," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Benjamin Walker. Prior to attending the BMET course, Walker was a Navy dental

technician. His next assignment is at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth in Portsmouth, Virginia.

"Having this experience is going to help me slide into my next assignment pretty smoothly," Walker said.

Military, civilian collaboration vital to establishing 5G at Joint Base San Antonio

By Lori A. Bultman

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

An announcement was made by the Department of Defense June 3 that will bring enormous advantages, as well as responsibilities, to San Antonio and the region. Joint Base San Antonio is one of 12 select installations where the department will experiment and test fifth-generation, or 5G, communications technology.

The development of 5G capabilities is critical for the country, and the DOD is fully engaged, in partnership with industry, to quickly develop 5G technology.

Dr. Brian Kelley, assistant associate dean's fellow director for the Wireless Information Next Generation Systems Lab at The University of Texas at San Antonio, and member of the San Antonio-Electromagnetic Defense collaborative, said 5G will be transformational for JBSA and San Antonio.

"5G digital services represent the essential evolution of the modern internet-driven economy," he said. "In the simplest terms, 5G high-speed causeways enable ubiquitous access and connectivity to internet-connected services, sensors, drones, robots, and data, as we move."

What this means is, internet-driven devices will work much faster, regardless of their physical movement within 5G coverage areas.

"The '5G-mobile-internet' allows the computing devices we carry around to analyze vast quantities of information for real-time services in highly mobile scenarios," Kelley said. "The capabilities of 5G will allow autonomous vehicles to chauffeur us to destinations; it will allow untethered virtual reality instructional training, on-demand remote surgical robotics by doctor's miles away from patients, and 5G-foreign-language-conversion applications to enable seamless collaboration around the globe."

"This technology is capable of transforming our society and represents the culmination of technological innovations at the intersection of high-performance computing, high-speed networking, and high-bandwidth wireless



NELSON JAMES

The Department of Defense announced June 3 that Joint Base San Antonio is one of 12 select installations where the DOD will experiment and test 5G communications technology.

communications," he said.

It is agreed that the capabilities of 5G will have a profound effect on military functions, but it will also contribute greatly to business, industry and American citizens.

"Business staff members and consumers alike will be able to browse the web, download files, process data, and stream video at incredible speeds on a 5G network, attributes that could give any country with this capability a significant economic advantage," said Adam L. Hamilton, Southwest Research Institute president and chief executive officer, who is also the chair of the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce board. He pointed out, though, the development of 5G will not happen in a vacuum.

"The DOD will collaborate with industry, the Federal Communications Commission, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and other government agencies in the development of 5G technologies," he said.

This collaboration will also include industry, agencies, and academic institutions in Texas.

"San Antonio and Joint Base San Antonio have a rich history of collaboration," said Col. Michael "Apollo" Lovell, executive director, JBSA-Electromagnetic Defense Initiative. "As JBSA's 5G experimentation site builds out, we anticipate large-scale experimentation and prototyping that will provide industry a means to

accelerate the technology in a low-risk environment while also advancing warfighter capabilities."

A local group eager to gain hands-on experience with 5G security and applications are the students and researchers at UTSA.

"There is no better way to prepare tomorrow's workforce for challenging roles with our many government agencies and defense contracting partners in the San Antonio-Austin tech area than working with the DOD in developing 5G in San Antonio," said Guy Walsh, executive director for the National Security Collaboration Center at The University of Texas at San Antonio. "The NSCC is excited to help accelerate DOD's move to high-tech 5G, combat-ready systems in months instead of years."

It is clear the advantages of DOD's experimentation and testing of 5G in San Antonio will be many, and it will have a profound effect on military operations and training at JBSA and around the globe.

"Adversarial conflict increasingly occurs between warfighters outfitted with advanced, information-infused systems," Kelley said. "Intelligent logistics, supply management, tracking, personal sensing for monitoring soldiers, smart bases, smart warehouses, and virtual-reality training all depend on ubiquitous connectivity. Secure, mobile 5G-radio sessions will enable information-dominance, which can lead to overwhelming advantages."

Military advantages are not the only ambition of the program, though. The DOD's efforts are intended to focus on large-scale experimentation and prototyping of dual-use, military and civilian, 5G technology.

"As a non-profit, applied research and development organization with a number of engineers and scientists working and collaborating on 5G adoption initiatives, Southwest Research Institute has a major stake in ensuring 5G technologies are secure and trusted by the DOD as well as transitioning these technologies to civil and commercial applications," Hamilton said, adding there is little doubt 5G will rapidly proliferate all commercial business sectors in the local area.

"The implementation of 5G here will take advantage of the city's extensive investment in cyber defense over the past decade and will leverage the world-class community of cyber knowledge and expertise in this region which resulted from that investment," Hamilton said on behalf of the SA Chamber. "It is the right decision, at the right place, at the right time."

Having long-standing connections and collaboration between military and civilian organizations in San Antonio, like those built through the SA-EMD and the JBSA-Electromagnetic Defense Initiative, will be vital to the success of the DOD's implementation of 5G at JBSA.

"Joint Base San Antonio is surrounded by world-class academic and research institutions and enjoys tremendous support from San Antonio's expanding technology ecosystem, which is stretching up to Austin," Walsh said. "The DOD's selection of JBSA and the surrounding community for the 5G pilot program comes as no surprise to the San Antonio's civilian, military, and critical infrastructure owners and operators."

"Few major cities experience the support our military community enjoys from partners including CPS Energy, San Antonio Water System, and other industry leaders who understand and appreciate the interdependence between military installations defending the nation and critical infrastructure owners providing reliable power, water, and telecommunications that enable and sustain America's military readiness."

BAMC personnel deploy to fight invisible enemy

By Lori Newman

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Service members are used to deploying to austere locations in support of the global war on terror, or humanitarian missions around the world, but for many, this is the first time deploying to fight an invisible enemy on U.S. soil.

More than 75 military medical personnel from Brooke Army Medical Center have deployed to hard-hit areas such as New York, Washington state, Guam and other locations to help fight COVID-19, and 20 more are on standby ready to deploy.

New York City

Nearly 40 healthcare professionals from BAMC deployed to New York City from March 27 to May 11 in support of the Department of Defense COVID-19 response. They joined a team of 800 Army and Navy medical personnel to help transform the Jacob K. Javits Center, a massive convention center in Manhattan, into a medical shelter to treat non-COVID patients.

The Javits Center, in conjunction with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the New York State Health Department, was initially intended to be a COVID-free, medical overflow facility. However, the mission shifted when they began providing care to COVID-positive patients in early April.

“Our main effort was to turn the Javits Center in just one week from an empty convention center into a 2,500-bed field hospital to alleviate the huge burden on the local hospitals,” explained Lt. Col. (Dr.) G. Travis Clifton, BAMC’s chief of general surgery and a surgical oncologist. “I was familiar with a field hospital, doing deployment medicine and being adaptable to austere conditions. But setting up a convention center with a different mission



Capt. Tim Katoski (left), a U.S. Army physician's assistant from the 9th Hospital Center, Fort Hood, Texas, receives one of the first COVID-19 patients at the Javits New York Medical Station on April 3.

MAJ. FOSTER KNOWLES

than that type of unit is designed to do, one that involved treating American civilians, required a lot of adjustments.”

Clifton and a few other physicians took on the role of liaison officers and immediately began visiting some of the hardest-hit city hospitals to explain the Javits’ capabilities and to facilitate transfers.

BAMC critical care nurse Army Maj. Caissy Goe took on an administrative role to help with problem-solving and finding best practices.

“Basically, we had this big bay with individual cubicles for each patient,” Goe said. “So, each patient had their own space, but they weren’t sealed rooms. That’s a little different from what you have in a hospital where you can shut a door and it has a roof and four walls and the patient can be isolated.”

“Keeping everyone safe was our biggest priority,” Goe explained. “People had to wear their personal protective equipment the entire time they were in that space.”

In just over a month, the Javits Center treated nearly 1,100 patients.

“I definitely think there are healthcare heroes, and I would

categorize the staff who were working directly with these patients as the true healthcare heroes,” Goe said. “I got to do my job, which was really to support them to provide the best patient care, but they were the ones who were at the most risk the whole time.”

One of those healthcare heroes was BAMC critical care nurse Army Maj. Sunnie Murray who worked in direct patient care and performed the role of a nursing supervisor.

“I was ensuring the teams — the nurses, the medics, the respiratory therapists, had what they needed,” Murray said. “It is like an invisible enemy. It’s a novel coronavirus, so you want to take every precaution to ensure the force is being protected. When we got there it’s like a switch (was turned on). It’s go time. We all just worked together to accomplish the mission.”

The staff worked 12-hour shifts six days a week.

“One of the greatest joys was when you could see your patient discharged and get to go home,” Murray said. “The convention center was so large, when you would start hearing clapping then you knew someone got to

go home. That was awesome!”

“I definitely feel we made an impact and were able to put our skills to good use,” Clifton added.

Goe agrees.

“I was really glad I had the opportunity to go and help the American people in America,” she said. “You can’t get any closer than that as far as supporting this country at a time of need.”

Washington State

Meanwhile, on the other side of the country, 17 BAMC military healthcare personnel assigned to the 627th Hospital Center deployed to Seattle for about three weeks to set up a 148-bed hospital within the convention center attached to CenturyLink Stadium.

“Our mission was to support the local hospitals by taking non-COVID patients to ease their burden so they could focus their equipment, supplies, and personnel on COVID patients,” explained Army Cpt. Pamela Sisler, BAMC perioperative registered nurse.

The field hospital closed before admitting any patients because the local hospitals were able to support their patient load

without external assistance.

“Though our mission changed several times and it was not always clear what the expectations of us were, my colleagues and I maintained motivation and positivity because we just wanted to help the city however we could,” Sisler said.

“We were surrounded by support, and the citizens of Seattle were thankful to have us there,” she said. “We received hundreds of hand-sewn masks from people in the community, which really brightened our days and showed us that the people were appreciative of what we were doing.”

Guam

An infectious disease physician from BAMC also deployed to Guam in support of the USS Theodore Roosevelt COVID-19 response.

Army Maj. (Dr.) Gadiel Alvarado served as the infectious disease expert for the COVID-19 Public Health Task Force from April 12-22. The team, consisting of five Army officers, was there to perform a comprehensive and multidisciplinary review of processes, assess the current situation and help with mitigation plans surrounding the USS Theodore Roosevelt COVID-19 outbreak.

The 10-day mission consisted of face-to-face interviews, data gathering, on-site evaluations, discussions and recommendations to the Joint Regions Marinas leadership working closely with Rear Adm. John Menoni, Joint Regions Marinas commander, and personnel from the USS Theodore Roosevelt, Navy Base Guam, U.S. Naval Hospital Guam to prevent further transmission of the virus.

“We are always in a readiness mode,” Murray said. “No matter what the challenge or the next mission, we are going to be ready to attack it no matter what. That is what we are here to do.”

NAMRU-SA scientist selected for top Navy award

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Work on biomedical projects, from developing an antivenom to dental research, has earned a Naval Medical Research Unit San Antonio researcher an award for being one of the top scientists in the Navy.

Dr. Yoon Hwang, NAMRU-SA Maxillofacial Injury and Disease Department research scientist, is a recipient of the Dr. Delores M. Etter Top Scientists and Engineers of the Year Award. The annual award is given by the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition) to top-performing scientists and engineers in the Department of Navy who have made significant contributions in their fields.

This year, a total of 54 scientists and engineers were selected for the award. Hwang was one of three scientists named in the individual category for the award.

"It is my honor to receive this award," Hwang said. "I feel very humbled."

Hwang was nominated for the Dr. Delores M. Etter Award by NAMRU-SA leaders, including Capt. Andrew Vaughn, NAMRU-SA commanding officer, and Capt. Michele Kane, NAMRU-SA executive officer.

His nomination was based on his work on three research projects that impact warfighters: the testing of dental and medical supplies in simulated harsh conditions encountered by units in deployed locations, the development of antivenom and the development of therapeutic biomedical applications in preventing the progression of dental disease.

Dr. John Simecek, NAMRU-SA director of craniofacial health and restorative medicine, said Hwang oversees multiple research projects because of his

vast knowledge on different aspects of science, especially those issues that affect the warfighter.

"In our research environment, many things come up on short notice," Simecek said. "One of the things that Dr. Hwang and his group are very, very adapt to is they are able to get a grasp on it quickly."

Utilizing an environmental chamber at NAMRU-SA, Hwang and his team of researchers run tests on multiple medicines and dental restorative products that are used to treat Sailors, Marines and service members deployed in remote locations. The environmental chamber provides simulations of harsh conditions, including extreme temperature and humidity scenarios, that could be found in these locations around the world.

Hwang said the tests determine whether a medicine or dental restorative product can withstand and be used under extreme conditions in remote environments.

"These efforts ensure the Sailors that the products being used in the field are of similar durability and performance in the harsh environment as in ordinary conditions," Hwang said.

Since venomous animals, including snakes, jellyfishes, scorpions and spiders, exist on six of seven continents, there is a good chance a servicemember or warfighter will encounter one of these animals while deployed. Hwang is conducting research on developing both diagnostic and treatment applications for antivenom that could ultimately be used on warfighters who are bitten by a venomous animal in the field or in the sea.

The research Hwang is conducting is leading to the development of a handheld diagnostic device that could detect the type and amount of envenomation in the body by



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Yoon Hwang, Naval Medical Research Unit San Antonio Maxillofacial Injury and Disease Department research scientist, is a recipient of the Dr. Delores M. Etter Top Scientists and Engineers of the Year Award.

venomous animals. The device would utilize a microorganism known as a bacteriophage, or "phage," a virus that infects bacteria.

Through his research, Hwang has shown that the phage could be used to identify the origin of the venom in the bite, including the type of snake or animal it may be from. He said the diagnostic device could determine if a physician needs to inject antivenom or not into the body.

In addition, Hwang is developing a therapeutic phage therapy, which he has patented, that could be used to treat snakebite by having the phage target and stick to venom components, neutralizing the toxicity of the target snake venom proteins and components and clearing the venom components out of the body.

Hwang said there is a need for warfighters to have the capabilities to detect envenomation and treat bites

from venomous animals because they are deployed in remote areas where medical facilities are typically 12 to 24 hours away.

"This line of research may prove bountiful as the area of future potential conflicts looms in snake-thriving lands," Hwang said. "This research will help greatly for our deployments in those areas."

Hwang's dental research into utilizing phages has determined that the microorganisms that cause cavities in the teeth could be practical therapeutic targets. This would allow for a phage therapy to be used once the bacteria are identified, with the phages reducing the bacteria's affinity for sucrose and ultimately reducing the potential for cavities.

If it's successful, the phage therapy treatment would decrease a service member's chances of having cavities and limit the need to transport the warfighter out of a battlefield zone because of dental pain.

"NAMRU-San Antonio is extremely proud of Dr. Hwang," said Dr. Sylvain Cardin, NAMRU-SA chief science director. "He is a great member of NAMRU-San Antonio and he really supports the mission."

Hwang thanked his research staff at NAMRU-SA, including April Ford, Dr. David Lemon, Dr. Steven Moffett, Dr. Holly May and Eun Huh, for their hard work, creativity and ideas on the research projects that led to him receiving the Dr. Delores M. Etter Award.

Located at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston in the Battlefield Health and Trauma Research Institute, NAMRU-SA is one of the leading research and development laboratories for the U.S. Navy under the Department of Defense and is one of eight subordinate research commands in the global network of laboratories operating under the Naval Medical Research Center in Silver Spring, Maryland.

JBSA-FSH consolidates transition assistance services

By Lori A. Bultman

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

When the Army closed the Soldier and Family Assistance Center, located on the Brooke Army Medical Center campus at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Sept. 30, 2019, the vacant space was perfect for merging all the installation's Transition Assistance Program services in one, convenient location.

"The goal at Building 3639 is to optimize facility utilization with a joint center approach," said Col. Sam Fiol, 502nd Forces Support Group commander. "This effort will provide enriched and synchronized services to the most important element of our process: transitioning service members, civilians, and their families."

The new center will merge Army ideas with other services' transition goals to form a joint approach.

"The mission of the Army's Soldier for Life-Transition Assistance Program, or SFL-TAP, is to deliver a world-class transition program for America's Army

that empowers members to make informed career decisions that enhance lives, communities and our nation," Fiol said. "As a joint base, we do the same, but we encompass members of all our military branches.

"It is a great way to leverage shared transition resources and expose transitioning service members to various local and state employment agencies, and veteran and military service organizations. There is also a wide range of career skills programs where they can gain experience or earn credentials that can lead to significant and meaningful post-service employment," Fiol said. "These collaborative opportunities can contribute to the Department of Defense's future mission capabilities and can also support the economic vitality in our region.

Fiol said the new center will focus on the Transition Phase of the Soldier Life Cycle to "reintegrate strong" those that have "started strong" and have "served strong."

"One of the most important

components of the Transition Soldier Life Cycle model is the Army Career Skills Program," Fiol said. "The CSP encourages service members to capitalize on training and development opportunities throughout their military careers so that they grow and develop, fully capable of serving our nation—both in uniform and as civilians beyond their military service."

"As a nation, we owe a smooth transition from active duty back to the civilian sector to those who answered the call to duty," said Derrick Hutchison, Army Support Activity special projects manager. "But there is also a cost-saving element and improved military recruitment associated with an effective transition program."

"In the first quarter of fiscal year 17, the four services paid \$72.8 million in unemployment compensations to states for transitioning service members," said Rodney Gaither, interim Transition Service manager at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. "By continuing to focus on ways to improve transition, the services

have steadily reduced unemployment compensation payments each year.

"In the second quarter of fiscal year 2019, payments were \$37.1 million, a 51 percent reduction," he said.

Additionally, Candace Hillard, former JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Transition Service manager, said service members who have a smooth transition from active-duty service are more likely to continue to serve our country in the Reserve or National Guard, and retirees who enjoyed a positive transition are also more likely to volunteer in and around military facilities.

Jon Vance, the incoming JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Transition Service manager, echoed that sentiment.

"The positive effects of a stellar transition program are also likely to create ambassadors for military service, benefiting military recruitment by attracting highly qualified candidates into the nation's all-volunteer service," he said. "Not only are we enhancing fiscal benefit for our services, but we are also increasing the transition success of our military community."

IMCOM professional gives back to the community

By Brittany Nelson

U.S. ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Rodolfo "Rudy" Morales Miranda, an Installation Management Command headquarters professional at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, has been giving back to the community through his music.

Recently, his bands have donated time and money to the San Antonio Food Bank, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. in San Antonio, Texas, and Gold Star Family organizations.

Morales Miranda started an IMCOM band, "The Busted Budget Blues Band," in 2010 when he approached the IMCOM command group with the request in 2011 to boost headquarters morale and support the service culture campaign.

The service culture campaign is an initiative used to enhance organizational culture where team members feel valued and respected.

"When we did our first jam session we invited all musicians from the

headquarters," Morales Miranda said. "Over the years, the Command Group and IMCOM Chaplain's Office have always been big supporters."

Morales Miranda said they found a lot of great musicians and vocalists in the headquarters. They started to play at many charitable events including the JBSA Military Child Education Program School Liaison Office Fill a Back Pack Drive, Woman's Equality Day, Toys for Tots and Feds Feed families.

According to Morales Miranda, the band, in collaboration with IMCOM G357 staff has raised more than 16 tons of food for the San Antonio Food Bank over the years. They have recently donated to the food bank because of their need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I don't do all of this alone, and it's always a team effort here in IMCOM," Morales Miranda said. "For September, we are working with the Blues Society to host a six-hour event to benefit the food bank. "They are going to need a lot of food for Thanksgiving."

Morales Miranda's personal band,

"Blues Like It Usta Wuz," is currently in a song contest through Bankersmith Texas. If they win, they plan on donating part of their prize money.

"When COVID-19 hit, we lost a lot of our gigs," Morales Miranda said. "We want to make up for those shows because we always donate a portion of our earnings to charities and veterans organizations."

When asked why he donates his time and the band's earnings, Morales Miranda said it is because he knows how others feel when they receive the help.

"These organizations are always in need," Morales Miranda said. "When I was a kid, I used to get free lunches at school so I know what happens when you don't get a meal. Having been a recipient of that charity and goodwill, I understand it and that's why I support it."

Morales Miranda also said he wants to live up to the Army civilian value of selfless service and invites others to do volunteer work because it's the right thing to do and it will make them feel good about themselves.



COURTESY PHOTO

Rodolfo Morales Miranda plays at the U.S. Army Installation Management Command Headquarters at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston for a benefit event.

LACKLAND

Rotary Club members observe virtual K-9 handler training

By Rachel Kersey

37TH TRAINING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Cadre members from the 341st Training Squadron's K-9 Handlers course at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland showcased the training military members undergo to become military working dog handlers during a virtual demonstration held for members of the San Antonio Rotary Club of Fair Oaks Ranch, Texas, June 3.

The Rotary Club is a national and international service organization that reached out to learn more about what these service members and their furry companions go through to join the most elite two- and four-legged teammate duos in the Department of Defense.

According to club treasurer, Bobbe Barnes, at least half of her chapter is former military, so the demonstration held a special significance for this group.

"My husband was career military, and he has told me stories about how they used these 'war dogs' in Vietnam and the Middle East," said Jane Burton, the Rotary Club secretary. "His second career after retiring was to teach middle school, and each year he would take his students from McNair Middle School to Lackland to see the dogs put through their paces."

After general introductions, the demonstration started with a show of basic obedience capabilities. Three dogs were instructed to sit, go down on all fours, stay, run in circles, perform facing movements alongside their handlers and more. Service members also showed the dogs being rewarded for their successful execution of each command with their beloved toy and some play time.

Next, there was a controlled aggression demonstration.

"We're training the students and the dogs. If the dog were to encounter someone in the field, we don't want that dog to be aggressive. We just want to get the suspect's ID to make sure that they are supposed to be in that area, but we do not want the dog to [be aggressive]



COURTESY PHOTOS

Military working dog handler training students from the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps and Navy gather for a photo following a K-9 demonstration for the Fair Oaks, Texas, Rotary Club June 3 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

whatsoever," said Staff Sgt. Eric Formolo. "A fully qualified MWD is trained to act with or without command, so it is important these verbal, physical and other cues are well known by the handler and the dog."

Pursuit and attack was the next demonstration.

With proper protective gear, an Airman approached a dog and his handler, pretending to be a troublemaker. When the handler told the Airman to hold still or he would release the dog, the Airman ran anyway and the dog chased him down to bite his sleeve.

After that, there was a search of the suspect, followed by a show of what would happen if a suspect ran while being transported to the handler's vehicle.

Finally, the handlers and dogs demonstrated a "stand-off."

"Once you fire a gun, you cannot bring the bullet back, but when you

release a dog, you're always able to recall that dog back if the suspect surrenders," Formolo said.

The dog chased the suspect, but stopped and sat by him when his handler called off the attack.

At the end of the presentation, members of the Rotary Club were eager to ask questions and learn more about these impressive animals and service members.

The members of the club asked about the cost of keeping a dog, what happens with dogs who do not pass the training tests, where dogs live during training, fostering and adopting puppies and military working dogs, what a career looks like for an MWD, and how long their career may last.

Formolo explained that each dog is different, but typically, the dogs work anywhere from nine to 11 years before the military seeks to give the dogs a family. Otherwise, it is based on the health and needs of the dog.



A Military Working Dog handler who trains students from the Navy participates in a K-9 demonstration for the Fair Oaks, Texas, Rotary Club June 3 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

"These dogs get human interaction every day and top-notch care. It's a good life they live," Formolo said.

The club members asked about the differences in training for members from the different services to become handlers.

The Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Army all have a slightly different path to work with dogs, but every single one of them goes through the training at JBSA-Lackland, said Formolo.

"Everyone I talked to loved this presentation," Barnes said. "You all do important work!"

Burton agreed.

"I think the program speaks to us on many levels," she said. "As those who appreciate dogs and their unique talents, as citizens who are proud of the special things going on in our San Antonio community, and as patriots who appreciate what our military and their dogs are doing to preserve freedom in the world."

To learn more about the 341st TRS, visit www.37trw.af.mil/Units/37th-Training-Group/341st-Training-Squadron/. For more photos, visit the MWD album on the Gateway Wing Flickr page.

433rd Airlift Wing units hold virtual changes of command

By Tech. Sgt. Mike Lahrman
433RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The change of command is a tradition that has survived throughout military history since its 18th-century origin. The ceremony is designed to allow subordinates to witness the formality of command changes from one officer to another.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought with it obstacles involving traditional large gatherings, but it was no obstacle that the 433rd Airlift Wing could not overcome.

Through the use of today's technology and video conference applications, Airmen and civilians — along with friends and family — can still watch as one commander departs and a new commander takes over.

Two commanders within the 433rd Mission Support Group assumed commands virtually at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland June 6. The 74th Aerial Port Squadron officially gained its new commander, Maj. Kristen B. Fowler, who relieved Lt. Col. Brian A. Angell from his command. Two hours later, Angell assumed command of the 433rd Logistics Readiness Squadron.

"I was part of this squadron as a captain from 2011 to 2015," said Fowler. "It was my first Reserve unit after serving seven years on active duty, and here is where I really learned what it means to be a Reserve Citizen Airman as well as a 'Port Dawg'."

The commanders did not handle guidon flags in either ceremony, keeping in strict compliance with health and safety guidelines. And despite only a small group of attendees witness the ceremony in the room, the group practiced physical distancing, by keeping at least six feet of separation between them, while hundreds of viewers, tuned in to watch from various locations around the world.

"This is truly a remarkable and memorable platform, virtually sharing the change of command ceremony," Angell said. "I'll always have this memory and experience to share with

my grandkids. I'm very happy to have this opportunity and I'm excited to be in this position."

Col. Wayne M. Williams, 433rd Mission Support Group commander, presided over both ceremonies. "We live in a rapidly changing society and culture," he said. "We're adapting to working virtually to help combat the spread of COVID-19 virus to slow a pandemic. The virtual world brings new challenges that we will adapt to and continue to be the world's foremost Air Force."



TECH. SGT. MIKE LAHRMAN

Maj. Kristen B. Fowler (right), 74th Aerial Port Squadron commander, salutes Col. Wayne M. Williams, 433rd Mission Support Group commander, during a change of command ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland June 6.



SENIOR AIRMAN MONET VILLACORTE

Lt. Col. Brian A. Angell (right), 433rd Logistics Readiness Squadron commander, salutes Col. Wayne M. Williams, 433rd Mission Support Group commander, during a change of command ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland June 6.

Flight prepares future Airmen for Basic Military Training

By Tech. Sgt. Christopher Carranza

403RD WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Air Force Basic Military Training, commonly referred to as “BMT” or “boot camp,” is a training program that must be completed for every trainee to attain the title of Airman.

The experience challenges trainees mentally and physically to prepare them for their Air Force career. Although COVID-19 has made training and everyday life a little different, the requirements to recruit and train Airmen have stayed the same.

At the 403rd Wing at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, Master Sgt. Kenneth Veazey is the 403rd Wing’s Development and Training Flight chief, which is a program that is specific to the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard that prepares trainees for BMT.

The D&TF was created to prepare trainees for BMT and reduce the number of trainee discharges, Veazey said. In fiscal year 2019, there were 130 enlisted and 86 percent of those members made it through basic.

“When I joined the Air Force Reserve this program did not exist here, and I went to ‘basic’ with little knowledge of what to expect when I got there,” Veazey said. “Now, I’m in a position that helps prepare our future Airmen with a foundation of Air Force knowledge before they attend basic training.”

Prior to leading trainees of the D&TF, Veazey was an aerospace ground equipment Air Reserve Technician with the 403rd Maintenance Squadron. He now assists civilians with taking their first steps in becoming Reserve Citizen Airmen, after they’ve taken the oath of enlistment.

Civilians such as Adeola Shafe, a New Orleans Sheriff deputy, who said that joining the Air Force has been one of his life’s goals.

“I’m originally from Nigeria and ever since immigrating to the ‘states’ I have always wanted to serve,” Shafe said. “Being in the military has always been a passion of mine, so anything Master Sgt. Veazey has to say, I do my best to absorb the information and his advice.”

Before each unit training assembly, Veazey builds a schedule for his trainees, guides newcomers, coordinates in-processing, and conducts team-

building exercises. When new trainees arrive he gives them their unit and installation rules, teaches them about Air Force culture, core values, customs and courtesies, rank structure and chain of command.

“My goal for the D&TF is to create a constructive learning environment that lays down the foundation to understanding the military lifestyle,” Veazey said. “I’ve tried to be the kind of (non-commissioned officer) that takes care of their Airmen and learn from them, all while growing as a leader.”

Contrary to the hustle, bustle, and occasional yelling of basic training, he said he wants to instill order and discipline without having to be aggressive, but will still administer corrective actions when necessary.

In addition to leading and teaching, Veazey also acts as a liaison between the trainee and their eventual unit.

“When we find out what career field and unit a trainee will be in, I do my best to get them acquainted with their future unit and office environment,” he said. “I do this so when Airmen get back from basic training or technical school they’re not wondering who or where they need to report to.”

Veazey said that he believes to be a good leader, you also have to be a good follower and it shows when trainees have positive attitudes and constructive dialogue that enhance training for everyone.

“I believe attending development and training has been very beneficial,” Shafe said. “Coming in with an open mind and a positive attitude will prepare you for anything. I definitely feel prepared for basic training, and I thank Sergeant Veazey for that.”

Currently, Veazey said he’s had to make adjustments due to the travel restrictions and is looking forward to in-person training again.

“We’ve postponed in-person training, due to many of the trainees being outside of the local commuting area and adhering to travel restrictions,” Veazey said. “I am, however, keeping constant communication with them through phone calls and emails so they have training materials to study while we wait for the travel restrictions to be lifted. I am positive they’ll be ready and willing to train when the time comes.”

433rd AW overcomes COVID-19 challenges

By Tech. Sgt.
Samantha Mathison

433RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 433rd Airlift Wing at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland has spent the last three months successfully innovating new ways to accomplish the mission due to the restrictions posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Before COVID-19, it was expected that most Reserve Citizen Airmen were to report to their work areas for unit training assemblies physically. This face-to-face culture suddenly had to change, along with the processes and policies designed around it.

Chief Master Sgt. Shana Cullum, 433rd AW command chief, said that she was surprised and impressed the most by the young Airmen in the wing who rose to the occasion.

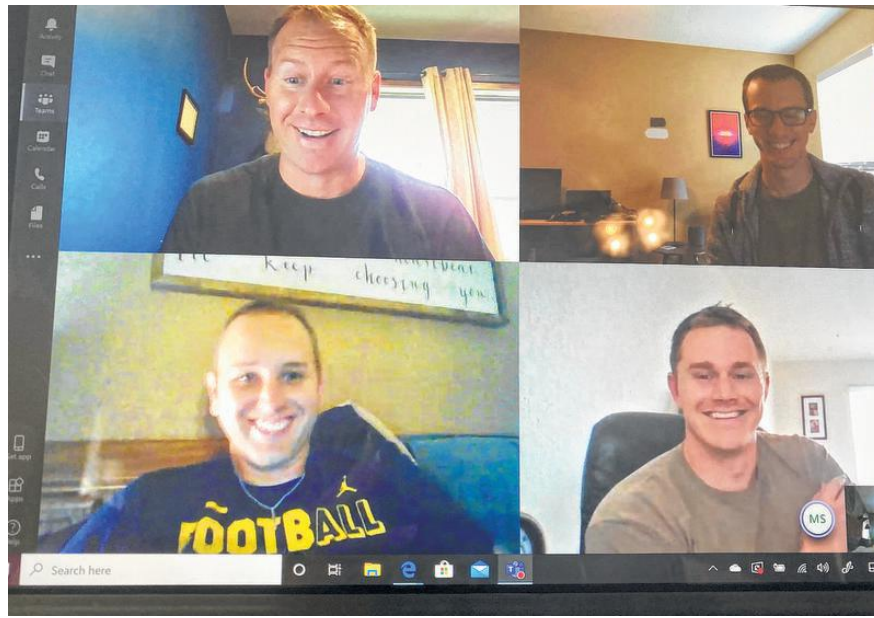
"The coolest thing has been watching our young Airmen step up because they have the tech knowledge and know-how," Cullum said. "It's been crucial breaking through some of our restrictions and red tape to move the wing forward, and we're no-kidding relying on these young Airmen to make it happen."

According to Cullum, it's been a "forced medicine," but the results have been astounding.

"The analogy I like to use is that we're building the plane as we fly, and we just keep flying higher and higher," she said. "Before we know it, it'll be a spaceship."

Even though going virtual has been successful in a lot of ways, according to Cullum, UTAs will never go entirely virtual because some aspects of the mission require the presence of Airmen. They are needed to maintain the equipment, fly the aircraft, and train in skills that can't be accomplished remotely.

Maj. Leigh Barker, 433rd Civil Engineer Squadron



COURTESY PHOTO

433rd Civil Engineer Squadron members meet for a virtual unit training assembly May 3 using an online collaboration service.

commander, said most Airmen in her squadron have jobs that fall into the category of requiring physical interaction to accomplish the mission.

Construction, firefighting, pest control, and electrical wiring are just a few examples of the variety of jobs the 433rd CES encompasses. Training to fight a fire or run a heavy piece of equipment requires hands-on training that is unavoidable, she said.

"However, these past few months have given us a huge opportunity to take care of a lot of the administration work that sometimes falls by the wayside in favor of mission accomplishment," Barker said. "Also, it's allowed us to get ahead so that when it's time to bring everyone back in, we can focus on the hands-on tasks."

Balancing virtual work with the physical and separating the two has been challenging for the entire unit; however, both

Cullum and Barker agree that the biggest challenge has been to stay connected with the Airmen.

According to Cullum, prior to the social distancing restrictions, the Professional Development Committee was offering one class per UTA. The PDC greatly expanded their class offerings to maintain connection with and between wing members.

"We have tried to fill that gap, and one of the ways we've done this is by providing professional development classes at least four times a week," Cullum said. "Sometimes, it's six or seven times a week."

In the civil engineer squadron, Barker said the experience of overcoming social distancing has been enlightening and has brought the Airmen in her squadron closer together.

"Our May UTA was

completely virtual, and the feedback I've received about it has been positive," Barker said. "Typical UTAs are tough in the fact that everyone is usually busy accomplishing the tasks they need to finish, and often there isn't time in those two days to connect and engage the way we'd like to."

Accomplishing a completely virtual UTA for a wide variety of careers that are typically hands-on, in nature, requires intensive pre-planning, according to Barker. So not only did leaders have to collaborate on that, but they had to stay engaged during the UTA.

Barker said it was neat how in some cases, Airmen came out of their shells to speak in a virtual environment when they usually don't talk as much when they're physically present and perhaps busy with tasks.

"During the last virtual UTA, I met with every single shop throughout the day," she said.

"What I found was some of the Airmen who are typically quiet and don't speak much, were suddenly articulating and conversing with me, and I loved it. It was nice to have those conversations with them."

Another benefit, she said, is that many Airmen have been more productive working virtually than when they come in for a UTA and have enjoyed it.

Senior Airman Winfield Beaman III, 26th Aerial Port Squadron air transportation journeyman, was an Airman who enjoyed working virtually during the June UTA.

According to Beaman, he usually must drive three hours one way to attend a UTA. However, by working virtually, he doesn't have to worry about reserving lodging, packing, and driving in, just to turn around and drive home two days later.

"In that way, it's been a relief to participate virtually," Beaman said. "Also, I've been able to focus on a lot of administration tasks and computer-based training without the distraction of other people in the room who sometimes vie for my attention. I've been able to finish my work much faster than I normally would've been able to."

Even though the work was performed in the comfort of his home, Beaman said professional decorum and accountability, was still maintained throughout the virtual UTA.

"Our senior leaders stayed engaged with us and would pop into our meetings just to check to see how we're doing," he said. "It comes down to the core values of Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence in all we do, regardless if we're at home or physically at work."

The COVID-19 pandemic changed much in the way the 433rd AW performs its mission, but members of the wing proved that they could add innovation to the military mindset to get it done.

RANDOLPH

Maj. Gen. Thomas takes command of AFRS

By Master Sgt. Chance Babin
AIR FORCE RECRUITING SERVICE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Maj. Gen. Edward W. Thomas Jr., took the reins of Air Force Recruiting Service June 11 in a ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph officiated by Lt. Gen. Marshall "Brad" Webb, the commander of Air Education and Training Command. Thomas is replacing Maj. Gen. Jeannie Leavitt.

Thomas joins Air Force Recruiting Service from his previous assignment as Director of Public Affairs, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. He was commissioned in 1990 following his graduation from Texas A&M University.

"It is an honor to be joining our Air Force's and now Space Force's incredibly talented recruiting team," Thomas said. "I cannot tell you how humbled I am. I am truly grateful for the privilege to serve and now lead this command. I am truly honored to follow General Leavitt into this command. It's clear that you have led an extraordinary team here that has absolutely thrived for the past two years."

When speaking of Thomas's experience, Webb spoke about the credentials he brings to AFRS.

"He's lead the strategic communications, frankly, for every event the last 30 years or so it seems," Webb said. "For all you AFRS folks that are tuned in, you are getting a phenomenal commander. He's ready to lead, innovate and succeed as a team."

Other staff assignments Thomas had include serving as the Special Assistant for Public Affairs to the Chairman of the



SEAN WORRELL

Maj. Gen. Edward Thomas Jr. (right), takes command of Air Force Recruiting Service from Lt. Gen. Marshall "Brad" Webb, commander, Air Education and Training Command in a ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph June 11.

Joint Chiefs of Staff, Director of Public Affairs for U.S. European Command and Director of Public Affairs for Pacific Air Forces. In addition to advising the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force on public affairs matters, he was responsible for developing and executing global communication processes to build understanding and support for the Air Force.

Leavitt, who commanded AFRS since June 2018, will now take a director position at AETC. One of her noted accomplishments was the transformation of AFRS into a Total Force recruiting enterprise to recruit the nation's best talent. In addition to recruiting for the regular Air Force, the Air Force

Reserve and the Air National Guard, Total Force recruiting also encompasses the Air Force Academy admissions, Air Force Civilian Service and Air Force ROTC. The mission of AFRS is to inspire, engage and recruit the next generation of Airmen and Space Professionals.

"I know you will lead AFRS to new heights," Leavitt said to Thomas at the change of command ceremony.

"To the men and women of AFRS, thank you for your hard work and dedication over these past two years," she continued. "Thank you for welcoming me onto your team. It's been my honor to serve as your commander."

Leavitt further commented on

the importance of diversity and inclusion as a means to keep the Air Force on the cutting edge.

"To remain the best in the world, we must continue to recruit a diverse group of highly talented men and women," Leavitt said. "In order for diversity to also be a competitive advantage, we must have inclusion."

Webb welcomed Leavitt to his AETC team and commended her on the job she accomplished at AFRS.

"When I think of AFRS you have as your motto 'Inspire, Engage and Recruit.' Since I have arrived here at AETC last summer I have gravitated to that first word — inspire," Webb said. "Your whole service,

"It is an honor to be joining our Air Force's and now Space Force's incredibly talented recruiting team. I cannot tell you how humbled I am. I am truly grateful for the privilege to serve and now lead this command. I am truly honored to follow General Leavitt into this command. It's clear that you have led an extraordinary team here that has absolutely thrived for the past two years."

Maj. Gen. Edward W. Thomas Jr., Air Force Recruiting Service commander

everywhere I've ever been with you and interacted with you, has been inspirational. In a situation like that, you can't but point to the commander. The commander sets the tone for an organization's culture. I have to give credit to [Leavitt] for setting that tone."

He also gave Leavitt credit for leading the way on the Total Force initiative, rated diversity, innovation and the COVID-19 response.

Attendance for the change of command was limited due to COVID-19 safety restrictions, but nearly 300 people were able to join in the ceremony virtually.

EFMP support doesn't skip a beat despite social distancing measures during pandemic

By Robert Goetz

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The novel coronavirus pandemic forced the modification of three Exceptional Family Member Program workshops at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph early this year, but the virus has not stopped the delivery of services from the Department of Defense program that supports military families with special medical and educational needs, nor has it halted plans for workshops scheduled in the coming months.

"Since the pandemic began, I have simply been dealing with families via email and phone," said Mike Bell, JBSA-Randolph EFMP family support coordinator. "We also have two classes coming up that are planned to be virtual for now."

A briefing on special education and individual education plans facilitated by the Brighton Center, a San Antonio-based nonprofit organization that provides direct services to children with disabilities and developmental delays, is set for 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., July 23.

"This class provides critical information for parents dealing with teachers and the education system," Bell said.

A legal briefing scheduled for 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Sept. 24, will focus on issues such as supplemental security income, special needs trusts, Able accounts and guardianships.

"Based on the feedback I received, the legal workshop was the most popular one we had last year," Bell said.

In addition, a secondary dependency class is set for Nov. 14.

Providing support to EFMP families when



in-person services were not available was not difficult due to the nature of the program, Bell said.

"Since the main piece of the EFMP — family support — is resource and referral, it is well-suited to be executed virtually," he said. "Families seem to be doing well — it has actually been business as usual for the most part. I believe this is due to our families' resiliency and the fact that they advocate for themselves very well."

Virtual presentations were a part of EFMP support even before the pandemic began, Bell said.

"I use Military OneSource as a conduit to stream our classes virtually," he said. "I send a link to the families that register to attend and they simply log

in. I actually started this process over a year ago for the families that have a hard time getting out of the house with their kids, because it makes it easier on them."

Their resiliency notwithstanding, EFMP families have faced more challenges than usual during the pandemic, Bell said.

"I believe they have had their hands full with homeschooling and taking care of their exceptional family member," he said. "Just knowing what some families deal with on a typical day tells me that their workload increased significantly with their other children being home also."

There are challenges on the military side as well, Bell said.

"I have spoken to several service members who were concerned about getting signed off in the virtual Military Personnel Flight for their pending permanent changes of station," he said. "However, we were able to easily work this out through email, phone calls and other means."

The EFMP families at JBSA have a plethora of resources in San Antonio, with EFMP offices at Fort Sam Houston, Lackland and Randolph, as well as a the EFMP Facebook page, Bell said.

"All three locations work together on certain endeavors, but work classes individually sometimes," he said. "However, all families are invited to attend workshops and happenings, no matter where they are stationed."

For more information on the Exceptional Family Member Program, call the EFMP-Family Support office at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 210-221-2705; JBSA-Lackland, 210-671-3722; or JBSA-Randolph, 210-652-5321. The program's Facebook link is www.facebook.com/JBSA.EFMP.

Applications due July 24 for DAWN-ED program

From Air Education and Training Command
Public Affairs

Eligible Air and Space Force officers have until July 24 to apply for the Developing the Airmen We Need-Education initiative aimed at giving them an opportunity to pursue a master's degree or Ph.D.

Up to 15 officers (10 master's degrees and 5 Ph.D.'s) will be selected for the 2021 academic year.

Air Education and Training Command officials recently announced the new Force Development initiative aimed at giving eligible officers in the Air and Space Forces an opportunity to pursue a master's degree or Ph.D.

Developing the Airmen We Need-Education (DAWN-ED) is a new degree program, funded by the

Department of the Air Force that supports DAWN — the DAF vision to develop Air and Space Professionals as life-long learners.

Overseen by the Air Force Education Requirements Board, DAWN-ED was established to help meet the Department's future technological needs as outlined in the 2018 National Defense Strategy.

Officers selected for this program must seek their advanced degree in one of the following areas: Advanced Computing, Artificial Intelligence, Autonomy, Big Data Analytics, Biotechnology, Directed Energy, Hypersonics, or Robotics.

Officer in the following Line of the Air Force developmental categories are eligible to apply: Air

Operations and Special Warfare; Space Operations; Nuclear and Missile Operations; Information Warfare; Combat Support and Force Modernization.

Additionally, eligible officers should have no more than 10 years of commissioned service; no less than two years time on station; the ability to meet application and testing requirements for the school in which they will apply; and will incur a service commitment following the completion of their program.

More detailed information about the application process and criteria is available in and has been distributed through, myPers.

For more information, contact the DAWN-ED program manager at 210-652-1877, 334-953-4151, or email, AETC.DAWN.Workflow@us.af.mil.